



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 108th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 149

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2003

No. 146

Senate

The Senate met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, our rock, our fortress, and our deliverer, the author and fountain of all truth, Your name is holy and You are worthy of our praise. Thank You for Your love and power. You have been better to us, Lord, than we deserve. We thank You for unmerited mercies that are new each day. You have kept us from falling and our enemies have not prevailed. Purify not only our words but our thoughts, that our lives will be acceptable to You.

Bless our Senators as they labor for liberty. May they remember to call on Your name during moments of perplexity. Give them Your wisdom, and make them fruitful in their efforts to do Your will. And, Lord, sustain our military people who are in harm's way.

We pray this in Your holy name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning we will be proceeding immediately to a series of stacked votes on some of the pending amendments to the Iraq-Afghanistan supplemental. Last night,

we were able to reach an agreement which has put us in a position to finish this bill today. Following the early sequence of votes, the chairman will be working on either clearing or scheduling for votes the other pending amendments.

In addition, under the order there are a few other amendments that may yet be offered. I ask those Senators who still intend to offer amendments to share those amendments with both sides so they can be reviewed. This will be helpful and allow us to schedule any necessary debate and votes in a timely way today.

The Senate will finish the bill today. We will remain in session until it is complete. A busy session is expected, and I ask for Members' patience as we approach the final hours of this bill. I remind my colleagues they should remain close to the Chamber throughout today's session to allow us to finish at the earliest hour.

During this morning's series of votes, all votes after the first will be 10 minutes in length. We will be closing these votes quickly, and it is imperative that Members remain in or around the Senate Chamber to avoid missing a vote.

Having said that, I believe we are ready to begin, and I thank Members for their patience and cooperation during this busy morning.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I thank everyone who has worked with us to get to this point. We have had a very good debate. We have many amendments to be considered today. I hope we can have a good debate on those that are yet to be offered.

We have tried to protect Senators who have indicated a desire yet to offer amendments following the stacked votes. I need to discuss with the major-

ity leader his plans for the conference. Obviously, I have noted, both to him personally as well as publicly, that before we are able to go to conference, we need to have assurances that the Democrats will be at the table and that we will be working in conference, unlike what is now happening on energy as well as prescription drugs and other bills. So I will talk with him through today on that and hope to reach some accommodation with regard to the importance of having a full conference on this bill, given the differences that now exist between the Senate and House versions of the legislation.

I look forward to the votes ahead and appreciate everybody's help.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TAL-ENT). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN SECURITY AND RECONSTRUCTION ACT, 2004

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1689, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1689) making emergency supplemental appropriations for Iraq and Afghanistan security and reconstruction for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Byrd/Durbin amendment No. 1819, to prohibit the use of Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Funds for low-priority activities that should not be the responsibility of United States taxpayers, and shift \$600 million from the Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund to Defense Operations and Maintenance, Army, for significantly improving efforts to secure and destroy conventional weapons, such as bombs, bomb materials, small arms, rocket-propelled grenades, and shoulder-launched missiles, in Iraq.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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